

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A protection and finish structure ~~of~~ for a boat hull ~~with simplified assembly~~, of the type comprising:

a profile extended in a longitudinal direction;

a longitudinally extended base configured for being fixed to the hull and having a longitudinal groove; and

~~and a plurality of fixing means, for fixing the profile to the hull, distributed along said profile, the protection structure comprising a fast clutch with a tenon and mortise joint wherein having a tenon element and a mortise element, one of them being, fixed to said the profile, and being longitudinally extended for a limited preselected length and a mortise element, the other of them being adapted for being received within the groove of the base fixed to the hull, and being longitudinally extended for a limited preselected length, wherein the tenon element and the mortise element have respective tenons and mortises limited preselected lengths and spaces therebetween for being mutually disengageable engaged in a manner that allows by sliding the profile to slide with respect to the hull base in the longitudinal direction.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The protection structure according to claim 2-1 wherein the ~~tenon of the~~ tenon element and the ~~mortise of the~~ mortise element ~~can~~ are configured to be mutually coupled by pressure applied in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

4. (Original) The protection structure according to claim 3 wherein the tenon has a section with saw-tooth shaped sides and the mortise has a section with saw-tooth shaped sides, substantially conjugated to the section of the tenon.

5. (Original) The protection structure according to claim 4 wherein the tenon element is a substantially parallelepiped block being longitudinally extended for a predetermined and limited length.

6. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 5 wherein ~~said~~the substantially parallelepiped block comprises a ~~material shortage~~hollow area for housing a nut for a stud for fixing the tenon element to an inner surface of ~~said~~the profile.

7. (Original) The protection structure according to claim 5 wherein the mortise element is a crop of a substantially C-like section being longitudinally extended for a predetermined and limited length.

8. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 7 wherein ~~said~~the crop of a substantially C-like section comprises a hole for the passage of a fixing screw of the crop to ~~said~~the base.

9. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 21 wherein ~~said~~the base has a ~~an extruded profile having with~~ an arch of predetermined width conjugated with ~~the~~a curve of ~~the~~an inner surface of the profile, and wherein adjacent arch-like portions of the base are configured to function as extension of the profile, a step being formed between ~~said~~the two adjacent portions having height roughly equal to the thickness of the profile.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 1 wherein the tenon element has ~~an end~~a-surface with predetermined curve conjugated with ~~the~~a curve of ~~the~~a inner surface of the profile.

12. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim ~~2-1~~ wherein ~~said the~~ base is made of a thermoformed material ~~and preferably a~~ such as PVC.

13. (Currently amended) A protection structure for ~~the border of~~ a boat hull, comprising:

a protective profile extended in a longitudinal direction, the protective profile having an inner surface;

a base configured to be mounted on the hull; and

a plurality of fixing means for fixing the profile to the hull, said means being distributed along said profile and each comprising: at least a fast-clutch with ~~a one~~ tenon and mortise joint including a tenon element and a mortise element, the profile being -fixed to one of said the profile tenon and mortise elements, and the other of said the tenon and mortise elements, being adapted to be fixed to the base hull; said the tenon element and said the mortise element being mutually engaged disengageable in ~~aby~~ longitudinally sliding one with respect to the other way thus obtaining a simplified assembly of the protection structure, wherein

the one of the tenon and mortise elements has a surface with predetermined curve conjugated with a curve of the inner surface of the profile.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim ~~14-13~~ wherein the tenon element ~~includes a tenon and the mortise element includes a mortise that can~~ are configured to be mutually coupled, by the application of pressure, in a direction being perpendicular to their longitudinal direction.

16. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 15 wherein ~~said the~~ tenon element has a section with saw-tooth shaped sides and ~~said the~~ mortise element has a section with saw-tooth shaped sides, substantially conjugated to the section of the tenon.

17. (Original) The protection structure according to claim 16 wherein the tenon element is a substantially parallelepiped block being longitudinally extended for a predetermined and limited length.

18. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ substantially parallelepiped block comprises a ~~material shortage~~ hollow area for housing a nut for a stud for fixing the tenon element to ~~an the~~ inner surface of said the profile.

19. (Original) The protection structure according to claim 17 wherein the mortise element is a crop of a substantially C-like section being longitudinally extended for a predetermined and limited length.

20. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 19 wherein the ~~said~~ crop of a substantially C-like section comprises a hole for the passage of a fixing screw of the crop to ~~said the~~ base.

21. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim ~~14~~ 13 wherein ~~said the~~ base has an extruded profile having an arch of predetermined width conjugated with the ~~curve of the~~ inner surface of the profile, and adjacent arch-like portions as extension of the profile, a step being formed between ~~said the~~ two adjacent portions having height equal to the thickness of the profile.

22. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 14-~~13~~ wherein ~~said~~ the base comprises a longitudinal groove for ~~embedding-receiving~~ the mortise element.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The protection structure according to claim 14-~~13~~ wherein ~~said~~ the base is made of a thermoformed material and preferably asuch as PVC.

25. (Currently amended) A support base for a finish profile intended for being fixed to the border of a boat hull, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising a central and longitudinal groove for housing ~~a coupling element with fast clutch~~ one of the elements of the mortise and tenon joint according to claim 1.

26. (Currently amended) A finish profile of stainless steel, of the type intended for being fixed to the border of a boat hull, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising a surface at sight being continuous and an opposite inner surface provided with ~~a coupling element with fast clutch~~ one of the elements of the mortise and tenon joint according to claim 1.

27. (New) The protection structure according to claim 1 wherein the limited length of the tenon element corresponds to the limited length of the mortise element.

28. (New) A protection and finish structure for a boat hull comprising:  
a profile extended in a longitudinal direction;  
a longitudinally extended base configured for being fixed to the hull; and  
a plurality of tenon and mortise joints having tenon elements being longitudinally extended for a limited length and fixedly spaced apart from each other along one of the profile and the base, and mortise elements being longitudinally extended for a limited length and fixedly spaced apart from each other along the other of the profile and base, and wherein

the tenon and mortise elements are arranged in such a way that the space between adjacent tenon elements is equal to or longer than the limited length of the mortise elements and the space between adjacent mortise elements is equal to or longer than the limited length of the tenon elements, such that by sliding the profile with respect to the base in the longitudinal direction the tenon elements and mortise elements are movable between a locked position wherein each of the tenon elements is engaged with a mortise element and an unlocked position wherein each of the tenon elements is positioned in a respective space between adjacent mortise elements and each of the mortise elements is positioned in a respective space between adjacent tenon elements.